

STROUD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1947, which in accordance with Circular 170/47 is an abridged one.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. No serious epidemics were experienced during the year.

SCARLET FEVER. 18 cases were notified, as compared with 17 last year. 11 of these were in a childrens' home, which it was found necessary to close for several months on account of carriers.

DIPHTHERIA. Diphtheria is gradually disappearing from the district, probably as a result of the Immunisation Campaign. 4 cases were notified, aged 18, 10, 13 and 5 years. Three had previously been immunised. None were considered to be true cases, after admission to Hospital and observation.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS. Only two cases were brought to my notice, - Female 12 years, Male 25 years. After observation in Hospital, one was considered not to be the disease, and the other was an extremely mild case, which would probably not have been notified in non-epidemic times.

TUBERCULOSIS. Notifications and Death Rates, per million.

<u>Notifications.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
1939.....22	1939.....448
1940.....23	1940.....595
1941.....21	1941.....441
1942.....24	1942.....386
1943.....28	1943.....511
1944.....38	1944.....668
1945.....45	1945.....558
1946.....48	1946.....555
1947.....40	1947.....706

Of the 40 cases notified, 3 were transferred from other areas, and one was a Service man on leave. Three were children, one to five years, (Glands of neck). Notification were received from the following

Parishes:-

Cranham.....3	Kings Stanley.....2
Chalford.....2	Stonehouse.....7
Thrupp.....4	Bisley.....2
Randwick.....2	Painswick.....5
Minchinhampton....5	Horsley.....4
Woodchester.....2	Rodborough.....1
Whiteshill.....1	

Generally speaking, the death rate from this disease is lower than that of England and Wales as a whole.

HOUSING. The Housing Survey has been completed, and it shews that a considerable number, viz. over 14%, are suitable for demolition, whilst many are suitable for re-conditioning. It would appear, however, that it will be some considerable time before real housing progress can be made. The Council have devoted considerable time and energy in endeavouring to provide new houses for the inhabitants of the district. At the end of the year 38 houses, (including 20 Swedish houses) were complete and occupied. The remainder were in Painswick 14, and Minchinhampton 4. Fifty houses had been completed by private enterprise by December 31st, 1947.

In addition, the Council provided 14 flats by the conversion of dwelling houses.

SEWERAGE. No start was made last year in the scheme for the sewerage of the District, but it is hoped that the main disposal works and certain trunk sewers will be commenced during 1948.

WATER SUPPLY The water supplied by the Stroud Water Board is of excellent quality, and generally speaking, sufficient in quantity. The mains were extended last year to Chalford Hill, France Lynch, Bisley, Eastcombe, Oakridge, Camp, Randwick and other areas; a reservoir has been constructed at Eastcombe, and a low level reservoir at Thrupp. These facilities will be appreciated by the majority of residents in the areas concerned.

No change can be recorded in the springs of the district, which are often polluted.

Regular samples are taken of the main supply, and they are usually found to be free from B.Coli in 100 ccs.

Many people still prefer bright and sparkling spring water to the main supply, which has been chlorinated and rendered perfectly safe for domestic purposes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate. 19.3 per 1000, as compared with 17.6 per 1000 last year and 20.5 per 1000 (E. & W.).

Death Rate. 14.8 per 1000, as compared with 12.1 per 1000 last year and 12.0 per 1000 (E. & W.).

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

42.5 per 1000, as compared with 24.8 per 1000 last year, and 41.0 per 1000 (E. & W.).

No deaths were recorded last year from Infantile Paralysis, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Diarrhoea and Enteritis.

The principal causes of death last year were;-

Heart Diseases.....	145
Cancer.....	48
Intra-cranial vascular lesions.....	39
Respiratory diseases.....	33
Tuberculosis.....	18

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

There are in the district 113 Factories in which Sections 1 to 6 are enforced by Local Authorities.

The number of inspections made was 96, and in four instances it was found that Sanitary Conveniences were either insufficient or defective.

It was not found necessary last year to institute any prosecutions.

SUMMARY.

From this brief review I think we may say that the health of the District, as indicated by Statistics, may be considered satisfactory. It remains to be seen, however, what ultimate benefit will result from the far-reaching changes contemplated by the National Health Service Act, when it comes into operation next year. The health of the people is intimately concerned with economic and industrial conditions, which have made rapid strides in the last few years.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Council and the Members of the Health Committee for their support throughout the year, and the Staff for the assistance I have received.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

NICHOLAS.E.DUNSCOMBE.

Medical Officer of Health.

